

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Sacramento

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING
LSTA GRANT PROPOSALS

February 1998

GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES FOR AWARD OF LSTA FUNDS

These are general program priorities that have been used by the California State Library in making LSCA/LSTA grant awards. The list has evolved over several years; it is not in rank order. These guidelines influence the award of grants by the State Librarian. The list is intended to provoke discussion and suggestions from the California library community.

- Preference is given to projects of direct service to communities, either metropolitan or rural.
- Every consideration is given to projects in service to special populations, but this is not to the exclusion of projects benefiting state or local residents as a whole.
- Preference is given to projects that assist libraries to focus on important societal issues such as introducing children to reading, universal literacy for adults, eliminating barriers to library service, and enabling persons of every age and social group to advance their knowledge and attain a better understanding of the use of libraries and their resources.
- Projects involving more than one library are encouraged. Multi-library and multitype library projects submitted under the Technology, Networking, and/or Resource sharing provisions of LSTA, however, are not necessarily given higher priority than worthy projects proposed by a single library.
- Collaborative, cooperative projects from libraries of all types are encouraged even if similar projects have been conducted elsewhere in the state.
- Projects expected to extend more than one year must be presented in annual increments with measurable objectives and sound evaluation plans for each proposed year of funding. However, there are no guarantees of continued funding. Projects are funded for one year at a time; and projects applying for continuation are evaluated in comparison with all other applications submitted within a given year.
- Jurisdictions with a history of inadequate management of previous projects and delayed or incomplete reporting may be denied future awards until an improvement in administrative practice can be demonstrated.
- Preference is given to projects whose applicants demonstrate a commitment to the project, as evidenced in the amount of pre-planning, needs assessment, and matching/in-kind funding contributions.
- Projects involving tests of new technology must be able to propose clear and direct benefit to citizens as their goal, not new research and development for its own sake.